

Welcome from the Guest Editor . . .

Once again, a special issue of the *Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement* is devoted to the annual Outreach Scholarship conference theme. Held in Columbus, Ohio, October 8–10, the 2006 conference focused on “Engagement through the Disciplines.” The conference served as a venue for discussions concerning the interpretation and implementation of outreach scholarship across the many disciplines that encompass higher education. Over fifty concurrent sessions, general sessions with higher education national leaders, and sessions at community sites engaged more than four hundred conference participants. In addition, the Outreach Scholarship Conference shared the venue and a day of programming with the national 2006 Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life conference. Their theme of “Engaging through Place” brought a broader perspective to the discussion concerning engagement in higher education.

For this issue of the Journal, the 2006 conference participants were offered an opportunity to explore through the discipline lens the unique approaches to community-academic scholarly outreach. The “Engagement through the Disciplines” issue includes the perspectives of thirty authors representing ten universities and disciplines ranging from arts to statistics. The articles are divided into four broad and overlapping themes.

Faculty are key to the success of university-community partnerships. They set the tone for the partnership and the relationship with the community. They map out the vision for integrating outreach scholarship into their teaching, research, and service work. The first two articles, “Preparing Future Faculty for Community Engagement: Barriers, Facilitators, Models, and Recommendations” by O’Meara from University of Massachusetts Amherst and Jaeger from North Carolina State University and “Engaged Faculty at the University of New Hampshire: The Outreach Scholars Academy” by Abrams, Townson, and Williams from University of New Hampshire and Sandmann from University of Georgia discuss preparing faculty for their engagement work.

Organizations exist to support faculty and staff as they are involved with outreach scholarship. The next three articles focus on changes occurring within these organizations. “Building a Higher Education Network for Community Engagement,” written by Lorilee R. Sandmann from the University of Georgia, highlights and describes the development of the Higher Education Network for Community Engagement and the efforts of national organizations to collaborate on issues affecting university-community partnerships. The article by Cochran, Arnett, and Ferrari from the Ohio State University titled “Adventure Central: Applying the ‘Demonstration Plot’ Concept to Youth Development” and Morse and

Klein's article titled "Economic Concepts Guiding Minnesota Extension's New Regional and County Delivery Model" demonstrate how the long-established extension system is changing in their respective states to adapt to the needs of a changing clientele.

Outreach scholarship is rooted in addressing complex issues that affect communities. There are a variety of models used to engage universities and communities. "One Block at a Time: Win-Win Situations for Community Design" is the theme of the article by Bivins, Cassity, Allen, and Coyne of the University of Georgia. Gunaratna, Olbricht, Lipka, and Watkins of Purdue University, along with Yoshida of Affinova, Inc., address the issue of "Serving the Community through Discipline-Specific Consulting." The lessons learned from "Service-Learning in Disaster Recovery: Rebuilding the Mississippi Gulf Coast" are discussed by Evans-Cowley from the Ohio State University. Each of these articles provides valuable insight for faculty involved in the many different ways outreach scholarship can be operationalized.

The remaining articles showcase a variety of community-university partnerships and the lessons that have been learned through this work. Hutzel from the Ohio State University discusses service-learning implemented through the arts. Teaford and Zavotka from Ohio State University, along with Price from Montclair State University, discuss outreach and engagement in the retail environment. Assessing impact related to the Creighton Collaborative Health Professions Partnership is the theme of the article by Houtz and Kosoko-Lasaki from Creighton University. Pearson and Johnston-Walsh from the Pennsylvania State University discuss outreach and advocacy partnerships as they relate to university-based legal clinics.

We hope that you will continue to bring the outreach scholarship dialogue to life through work in your communities and institutions and by participating in the Outreach Scholarship Conference as a presenter and/or attendee in the future. We encourage you to share what you have learned and the resulting scholarship through articles submitted to the *Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement*.

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